

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CPR-01 PRS-01 IO-13 /046 W

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R 160025Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7430

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OTRA

SUBJ: RABBIN HERSHBERG'S PLANNED AWARD FOR PRESIDENT FORD

1. RABBI (DR.) ABRAHAM HERSHBERG, PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF PEACE AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, BASED IN MEXICO CITY, HAS IMPORTUNED EMBASSY TO INFORM ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT MYRON KOROPAS, WHITE HOUSE, TELEPHONE 202-456-1414 THAT HERSHBERG'S COMMITTEE (TWO OTHER RABBIS ARE MEMBER-SIGNATORIES) HAS DECIDED TO PRESENT PRESIDENT FORD WITH ITS "AWARD OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM". HIS LETTER OF NOTIFICATION ALSO SAYS COMMITTEE HAS ENDORSED PRESIDENT'S CANDIDACY, AND MENTIONS THAT HERSHBERG MADE STATEMENT ABOUT BOTH THESE SUBJECTS LAST WEEK AT REPUBLICAN PARTY LUNCH IN INTERNATIONAL HOTEL IN QUEENS, IN PRESENCE OF MRS. CONNIE NEWMAN.

2. IN REQUESTING EMBASSY TO FORWARD ABOVE INFO, RABBI HERSHBERG MADE CLEAR THAT HE IS "READY TO LEAVE FOR WASHINGTON ON MONDAY, SEPT 20, THAT HE EXPECTS PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT KOROPAS TO ARRANGE MEETING FOR HIM WITH PRESIDENT, AND THAT WHILE IN THE US HE PLANS TO MEET WITH UNSYG WALDHEIM. HE ASKS THAT AMBASSADOR JOVA BE INFORMED.

3. EMBASSY IS NOT RPT NOT ENDORSING HERSHBERG'S REQUEST IN ANY WAY, BUT ONLY PASSING ALONG INFO HE RELAYS. WE ARE AWARE OF DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATION OF MARCH 30 1975 IN SPRINGSTEEN-SCOWCROFT MEMO THAT PRESIDENT DECLINE SIMILAR AWARD FROM HERSHBERG'S GROUP AND THAT PRESIDENT
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NOT RECEIVE HIM. WE ALSO NOTE THAT DURING MIDDLE EAST TRIP IN AUGUST 1976 RABBI HERSHBERG CLAIMED TO HAVE

TALKED WITH PRESIDENT ASAD OF SYRIA WHEN IN FACT HE DID NOT (DAMASCUS 5696) AND THAT HE ENDEAVORED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO MANEUVER EMBASSY TEL AVIV INTO ARRANGING HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS FOR HIM (TEL AVIV 5854, 5902). MEXICO CITY 8160 DESCRIBES HERSHBERG AS "WELL-MEANING BUT SOMETHING OF A SELF-PROMOTER" AN AND HABITUAL NAME DROPPER. WE SUGGEST THE PRESENT INITIATIVE IS ANOTHER INSTANCE OF SUCH SELF-PROMOTION.

4. EMBASSY WILL PASS ANY WORD TO RABBI HERSHBERG THAT DEPARTMENT MAY WISH HIM TO HAVE.
THOMPSON

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